

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6112

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR TS
SUBJ: INITIAL TUNISIAN RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE
ON BONN ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION

REF: STATE 212172

AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES OF SEVEN COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN JULY BONN SUMMIT, IT WAS AGREED THAT MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH WOULD BE FOR FRG AMBASSADOR, DR. KLAUS TERFLOTH, TO SPEAK FOR GROUP. TERFLOTH MET WITH TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON AUGUST 28. HE HAS NOW PROVIDED WRITTEN REPORT ON HIS MEETING. THERE FOLLOWS AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF AMBASSADOR'S TERFLOTH'S REPORT, WHICH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

"IN THE NAME OF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES SIGNATORY TO THE BONN SUMMIT OF JULY 17, 1978, I MADE A DEMARCHE TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOHAMED FITOURI ON AUGUST 28 AT 10:00 A.M. I PRESENTED MR. FITOURI WITH A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DECLARATION AGREED UPON BY THE SEVEN COUNTRIES ON JULY 17, AND I SPOKE WITH HIM CONCERNING CONTENTS OF MY AUGUST 28TH LETTER.

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"MR. FITOURI INFORMED ME THAT THE BASIC ATTITUDE OF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES REFLECTS IN PRINCIPLE THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT. HE NOTED THAT TWO YEARS AGO TUNISIA PROMULGATED ITS OWN LAW DEALING WITH AIRLINE HIJACKINGS.

"MR. FITOURI DID NOT CONCEAL HIS SUPRISE AT MY INITIATIVE AND HE APPEARED STRUCK BY THE REGIDITY OF THE DECLARATION. HE COULD ONLY PROVIDE AN INITIAL, PERSONAL, REACTION TO THIS, AND HE WAS AT PAINS TO NOTE THAT THIS WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL REPLY. HE ASKED IF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES WERE NOT DOING THEMSELVES A DISSERVICE BY MAKING THIS DECLARATION. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DECLARATION, HE ASKED, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE OR COMPROMISE TO THE END OF SAVING HUMAN LIVES? HE NOTED THAT THE SIGNATORIES TO THE DECLARATION COULD THEMSELVES BECOME VICTIMS OF THE DECLARATION'S SANCTIONS.

"ALSO, HE NOTED THAT HE COULD NOT ENVISAGE TUNISIA AS A POTENTIAL PARTICIPANT IN THIS DECLARATION, AND THAT HE SAW TUPIAI RATHER AS A POSSIBLE VICTIM OF THE SANCTIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE PROVISION OF SAFE CONDUCT IN OYDER TO SAVE LIVES IN APPARENTLY EXCLUDED. HE COMMENTED THAT THE MENACING TONE OF THE DECLARATION COULD HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS.

"HE COMMENTED THAT, IN A PRATICAL SENSE, THE SEVEN COUNTRIES FORM THE CORE OF THE WESTERN WORLD. THUS TERRORISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING HOSTAGES IN THE FUTURE WOULD INEVITABLY BE DRAWN TO COUNTRIES HOSTILE TO THE WEST. HE ASKED IF THIS REALLY COR-
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RESPONDED TO THE DESIRES OF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT SUCH A DECLARATION WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE UNLESS ALL COUNTRIES SUBSCRIBED TO IT. HE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE PROFITABLE TO RAISE THIS QUESTION IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

"I MENTIONED OUR INTENTION TO CONDUCT, SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY, CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING SANCTIONS ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF INDIVIDUAL INCIDENTS. WITH RELATION TO HIS MISGIVINGS, I NOTED THAT IT IS CUSTOMARY TO MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE COUNTRY DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES, TO ENSURE THAT THE NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS HE SPOKE OF WOULD BE NEITHER AUTOMATIC NOR NECESSARILY RIGID. I NOTES AS WELL THAT A RESOLUTION OF FUTUR DEBATE IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

"MR FITOURI CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING THE DESIRE TO BE KEPT ABREAST OF THE INTERPRETATION GIVEN TO THE DECLARATION, AND HE ASKED THAT HE BO PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING FUTURE DELIBERATIONS BY SPECIAL-ISTS IN THE AREA OF HIJACKINGS. HE NOTED THAT WITHOUT A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF ITS MEANING, HE DE-

CLARATION WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE TUNSIAN CABINET OF
MINISTERS AS IT HAD BEEN BY HIM." KING

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